

United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General, in Geneva, reiterates readiness to use air power again after NATO aircraft bomb Bosnian Serbs attacking safe area of Gorazde.
- + Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, expresses support for deployment of 50 extra observers in Georgia; stresses need for progress on political settlement so that it can consider possible establishment of peace-keeping force in Abkhazia.
- + United Nations evacuates 250 civilian staff and dependents from Rwanda as violence continues after death of President Habyarimana last week.
- + Secretary-General welcomes calm in Burundi following death of President Ntaryamira.
- + Secretary-General, addressing Habitat II Preparatory Committee, calls for global mobilization of resources to make cities sustainable, healthy and affordable.
- + Fifth Committee approves drafts by which General Assembly would authorize Secretary-General to commit nearly \$90 million to finance UNPROFOR, MINURSO and International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated that he would not hesitate to use close air support again to protect safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yesterday and again today, at the request of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), aircraft belonging to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) bombed Bosnian Serbs attacking the safe area of Gorazde. Those actions came after the Secretary-General called on all parties to return to the positions they held before the recent fighting in Gorazde. He said he had instructed UNPROFOR to use all available means as authorized by the Security Council to attain that objective.

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The Secretary-General, who was continuing his visit to Geneva today, urged all parties to continue dialogue with a view to ending the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He expressed hope that peace talks would resume soon, either in that country or under the aegis of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

Yesterday's NATO attack was requested by UNPROFOR after its observers in Gorazde were endangered by Serb shelling, and approved by the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Yasushi Akashi. Describing the action as an "ice breaker," a United Nations spokesman said that the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Bertrand de Sauville de Lapresle, retained the authority to use air support again and that subsequent approval would not be needed.

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The Security Council has expressed support for the deployment of an extra 50 military observers with the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) if the Secretary-General considers that conditions on the ground are appropriate. In a statement read out by its President, Colin Keating (New Zealand), on Friday evening, the Council stressed the need for progress on a political settlement in the next round of talks between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, so that it might consider establishing a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia, Georgia.

The Council called on the parties to observe the cease-fire and other commitments under the 4 April Declaration on measures for a political settlement of the Georgian/Abkhaz conflict. It also called on them to honour the Quadripartite Agreement on the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, which was signed the same day. The Council further called on the parties to use the current constructive atmosphere to solve other key issues of the settlement.

The Council welcomed the conclusion of the third round of talks between the two sides, carried out under the aegis of the United Nations, with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator. It also welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy towards a comprehensive political settlement in Abkhazia, Georgia.

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The United Nations has evacuated 250 civilian staff and dependents from Rwanda because of the civil strife there following the death of the country's President, Juvénal Habyarimana, in an air crash at Kigali on 6 April. There were reports of a major battle between the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and Government forces in the city, and tremendous loss of life across the country, although no reliable casualty figures were available, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Some 5,000 Rwandese citizens were seeking refuge from the violence in United Nations-controlled facilities, the spokesman noted. Meanwhile, the

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Secretary-General's Special Representative for Burundi and the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) have urged the parties to resume dialogue and to agree on a cease-fire.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed a report by his Special Representative for Burundi, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, that the situation in the country had remained calm since the death of President Cyprien Ntaryamira on 6 April. The Secretary-General said he was very pleased that Burundi's leaders were working together and that its people had shown exemplary restraint at such a tragic time. They could count on the full support of the United Nations in their efforts to set up an interim arrangement, he added.

Meanwhile, the United Nations Preparatory Fact-finding Mission to Burundi, which has been in the country since 22 March, is continuing its work, according to its Chairman, Simeon Ake. The Mission is due to return to New York on 21 April to report to the Secretary-General, after consultations with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for a global mobilization of resources to make the world's cities sustainable, safe, healthy, humane and affordable. Addressing the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Geneva, he said the challenge of sustainable development was a challenge of urban settlements.

The Secretary-General said the global exodus to cities had led to urban poverty, less housing and fewer services, unemployment and disaffection among youth. In the inner cities especially, ethnic tension, violence, substance abuse and social disintegration were on the rise. The emergence of mega-cities had brought land degradation, traffic congestion and air, water and noise pollution. While non-governmental organizations and local communities could help tackle those problems, States bore the main responsibility for the development of their peoples. He called on the international community to cooperate on a global plan of action to sustain life and work in urban environments at the 1996 "City Summit."

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) on Friday approved draft resolutions by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit some \$90 million to finance two United Nations missions and the International War Crimes Tribunal. By one draft, the Secretary-General could commit nearly \$16 million gross a month to the United

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Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), from 1 April to 31 July. That amount would cover the costs of the 3,660 extra military personnel authorized by Security Council resolution 908 (1994).

The second draft would have the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to appropriate \$11 million for the International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia for 1994. By the third draft, the Secretary-General would be authorized to commit \$3.7 million for the United Nations Observer Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) from 1 April to 10 May, and another \$3.7 million monthly from then until the end of July.

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